

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm
Radio Address – Education Milestones

This is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

With summer right around the corner, students across the state are finishing school. My daughter is graduating from high school this year and going on to college – I cannot believe how quickly she’s grown up.

This has been a big year for my family, and we aren’t the only ones. Families across Michigan are celebrating high school, middle school, and elementary school graduations.

And this has also been a big year for Michigan education and a watershed year for our economic future as a state.

For the first time, our high school graduates will be eligible to receive the Michigan Promise scholarship. This \$4,000 scholarship can pay for college or technical training for every child in Michigan. And it is another step towards ensuring that every student is prepared for the knowledge based economy.

Eighth graders who are graduating from middle school this year will be the first class of Michigan students to benefit from our new, rigorous high school curriculum standards. Every student in Michigan will now be required to complete a rigorous set of courses including four years of math, three years of science, four years of English, a foreign language, an online learning experience, the arts—subjects that are critical to the new jobs we are creating in our economy.

I’m also very proud that Michigan is the first state in the nation to require all students to have that online learning experience—the computer technology that allows learning to take place anywhere and anytime. By learning this new way, our students will have a leg up when they enter the workforce.

Together, these requirements move Michigan to the front of the pack for preparing our students to go on to college and to succeed in the jobs of the future.

And, our rising seniors in high school, who have got just one year until graduation, have completed an important milestone, as well. Earlier in the spring, every Michigan high school junior took the ACT, a college admissions exam. That means for the first time every student in Michigan will know if they’ve got what it takes to go on to college.

Economists and experts across the country agree that education is the single most effective strategy for stoking a state’s economic growth. That means we all must create a culture of learning that is unprecedented in Michigan’s history.

And we're making progress. The kids in Michigan public schools today are better prepared than ever before: we're improving their curriculum, we're pushing them all to shoot for college, and we're making sure that college and technical training are affordable and accessible for every Michigan student.

These steps are laying a strong foundation for our economic future, and our investment in education now will help ensure that Michigan is the best place in the world for us and our kids to live, learn and earn.

Thank you for listening.